

GRAPES
MEALYBUG AND MITE UPDATE™
APPLAUD® and FUJIMITE®**MEALYBUG FIELD OBSERVATIONS****SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

Vine Mealybug (VMB) – This week has been hot in Santa Barbara County, and mealybug adults and crawlers are on the move. Mealybug numbers are increasing as they become more active. Many growers put out their second spray this week so hopefully they will get a good knockdown. In the next few weeks growers should put something in through the drip to get into the plants systemically. It seems like the fight on mealybug is never ending, but you must stay on top of your program, so they do not get ahead of you.

Leafhoppers- no activity currently

Mites- Mite numbers are still low only 1-2 per leaf this week, make sure to check your hot spots weekly and spray when needed.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY**

VMB – Similar to last week, warmer daytime temperatures (~90-95 degrees) and active vine growth are contributing to increased activity of female VMB. We continue to find VMB underneath the bark along the trunk and cordon. In some high population areas, they are found under the bark on the spurs. In these hot spots, consider applications to control VMB soon. Light amounts of honeydew can be found coming through the bark where dense populations occur. Ant activity remains high in these areas and continues to be an indicator of where treatment will be required. Early season applications of an IGR and systemic insecticides can help greatly with reducing populations. Trap counts are remaining low for now, we may see an increase due to the heat.

Leafhoppers- We are seeing the first wave of leafhoppers in the vineyards. Although they are low for now populations can grow rapidly, early control considerations are recommended.

Mites- no activity currently

MONTEREY COUNTY

VMB – As temperatures are beginning to rise, VMB is becoming more visible. Clusters of adult mealybugs are hanging below the cordon and at the head of the vine. New ovisacs can be seen, which means eggs have been laid. The ovisac serves as a guard for eggs from natural enemies. Most ovisacs can contain between 150-400 eggs. It will be a matter of time until first instar nymphs hatch from the egg and begin their life cycle. Also, ant activity is abundant in areas with high populations of VMB. Stay on top of your program and keep an eye on hot spots.

Leafhoppers- no activity currently.

Mites- Mites seem to have slowed down over the past few days. They can still be seen in a few areas, especially in weaker vines that are along the edges. Continue to water dirt roads and try not to stress the vine this early.

Applaud applications at or before bud break have been shown to significantly reduce mealybug populations. This timing can also reduce the risk of residue related issues.

Growers/Vineyard managers should always consult with Grower Relations Representatives or Wineries to ensure Applaud is on their Approved/Conditional Use list.

[Click HERE](#) to view a video about monitoring for Vine Mealybug.



NOTE: The field observations above are provided as general comments to help in treatment decisions. Individual field conditions can vary widely. Monitor individual fields carefully.

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